

Application No. 10/752,403
Amendment dated March 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claim 18 is cancelled herein. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are at issue.

The disclosure is objected for reference to the German priority application. The reference to the priority application is deleted as required in the Action.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,688,357. As mentioned, claim 18 is cancelled. Accordingly, the statutory double patenting rejection of claim 18 is mooted.

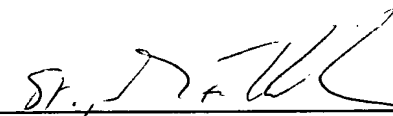
Claims 1-4 and 6-17 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, i.e., non-statutory type, over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,688,357.

The Action indicates that a Terminal Disclaimer will overcome the non-statutory double patenting rejection. As such, applicants enclose herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 35 C.F.R. §1.321(c).

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5 is noted with appreciation. Claim 5 is rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of its base claim 1 so that claim 5 should now be in condition for allowance.

The application now appears to be in condition for allowance and such action as consistent therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 16, 2005

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